IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the catalytic hydroformylation of an olefinically unsaturated empounds compound having from 3 to 24 carbon atoms using an unmodified catalyst comprising at least one metal of groups 8 to 10 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, wherein the hydroformylation is carried out in the presence of a cyclic carbonic ester of the formula I

$$R^1$$
 R^2
 R^3
 R^4
 R^4
 R^2
 R^3
 R^4
 R^4
 R^2
 R^3
 R^4
 R^4
 R^4
 R^4
 R^4
 R^4

where

 $R^{1}, R^{2}, R^{3}, R^{4}$

are identical or different and are each H or a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic, alicyclic, aromatic, aliphatic-alicyclic, aliphatic-aromatic or alicyclic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 27 carbon atoms,

n

is 0 - 5

X

is a divalent substituted or unsubstituted, aliphatic, alicyclic, aromatic, aliphatic-alicyclic or aliphatic-aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 27 carbon atoms,

with the proportion of the carbonic ester being at least 1% by weight of the reaction mixture.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and X are substituted by identical or different substituents selected from among the

Docket No. 262605US0X PCT Preliminary Amendment

group consisting of O, N, NH, N-alkyl, and N-dialkyl radicals, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, -OH, -OR, -CN, -C(O)alkyl or and -C(O)O-alkyl.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the said hydroformylation is carried out in the presence of from 5 to 50% by weight, based on the reaction mixture, of a solvent which is nonpolar compared to the cyclic carbonic ester I and is immiscible with the cyclic carbonic ester I.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 claim 1, wherein the reaction product from the hydroformylation is extracted with a nonpolar solvent which is immiscible with the said cyclic carbonic ester [[I]].

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbons having from 10 to 50 carbon atoms or olefins having from 3 to 24 carbon atoms are used as nonpolar solvent.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 claim 1, wherein the said hydroformylation is carried out in the presence of HRh(CO)₃ as catalyst.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 claim 1, wherein the reaction product mixture from the hydroformylation reaction is separated into a fraction comprising predominantly the catalyst and the cyclic carbonic ester and a fraction comprising predominantly the hydroformylation products.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 claim 1, wherein the a fraction comprising the said catalyst is recirculated to the hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 claim 1, wherein the cyclic carbonic ester used is ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, or butylene carbonate or a mixture thereof.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9 claim 1, wherein the unreacted olefinically unsaturated compounds are compound is separated off from the reactor output or from the hydroformylation products and are returned to the same hydroformylation reaction or passed to a second hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10 claim 1, wherein the olefinically unsaturated compounds used are compounds compound is a compound which have has been obtained as unreacted olefinically unsaturated compounds compound from the reactor output of a first hydroformylation reaction.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the olefinically unsaturated empounds used are compounds compound is a compound which have has been obtained as unreacted olefinically unsaturated empounds compound from the reactor output of a first hydroformylation reaction carried out in the presence of a ligand-modified catalyst.

Docket No. 262605US0X PCT Preliminary Amendment

Claim 13 (New): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbons having from 10 to 50 carbon atoms or olefins having from 3 to 24 carbon atoms are used as nonpolar solvent.